
Overview

This standard is about being able to drive horses to specialist turnouts, vehicles and implements. It includes being able to select horses according to their fitness, experience and ability to work together. You will be able to make informed decisions relating to the positioning of individual horses. You will be able to select and fit harnesses for a range of specialist work, and select from a range of suitable horse-drawn vehicles and implements.

The standard includes being able to direct the activities of the harness horse grooms crew while preparing horses to be driven, putting- to/taking out and while driving.

You will need to be fully aware of the importance of health, safety and animal welfare in connection with this activity.

You will need to ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, at all times.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify the purposes for which the specialist turnouts will be used
2. ensure that appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
3. select individual horses that are suitable for the intended specialist work
4. select horses that complement one another when driving as a specialist turnout
5. assess the temperament of individual horses, and evaluate their suitability for a range of specialist uses
6. determine the positioning of individual horses within specialist turnouts, according to their individual merits
7. select horse-drawn vehicles that are suitable for the purpose
8. select the harness and fit to individual horses
9. set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance
10. carry out routine pre-drive checks on horses, harness and vehicles
11. be responsible for the care for the horses after use
12. be responsible for cleaning, maintaining and storing the harness and vehicle after use
13. direct the activities of the crew of Harness Horse Grooms to assist with maintaining the safety and welfare of the specialist turnout while being driven
14. drive specialist turnouts in accordance with relevant legislative requirements and codes of practice, and with consideration for other road users
15. monitor the horses' behaviour while driving, and take positive action to minimise stress and maintain their wellbeing
16. ensure that appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
17. assess the hazards and control the risks to horses, yourself and others in connection with this activity

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. your role and responsibilities in driving specialist turnouts, vehicles and implements
2. the clothing and personal protective equipment that should be worn for the activity
3. the criteria for selecting suitable individual horses for specialist turnouts
4. the criteria for selecting horses to work together as part of a specialist turnout
5. how to assess the fitness and ability of individual horses for specialist work
6. how to assess the temperament and behaviour of individual horses
7. the criteria for determining the positioning of each horse within specialist turnouts
8. how to fit, set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance
9. how to select suitable horse-drawn vehicles
10. how to monitor individual horses while driving as a specialist turnout
11. how to evaluate the effectiveness of specialist turnouts as a whole while driving
12. how to minimise stress and how to positively promote the wellbeing of horses while driving
13. how to direct the crew of Harness Horse Grooms to assist effectively with maintaining control, and the safety and welfare of the horses while driving
14. the legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to driving horses on the public highway
15. the importance of establishing and maintaining records
16. how to ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, during this activity.

Drive horses to specialist turnouts, vehicles and implements

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